

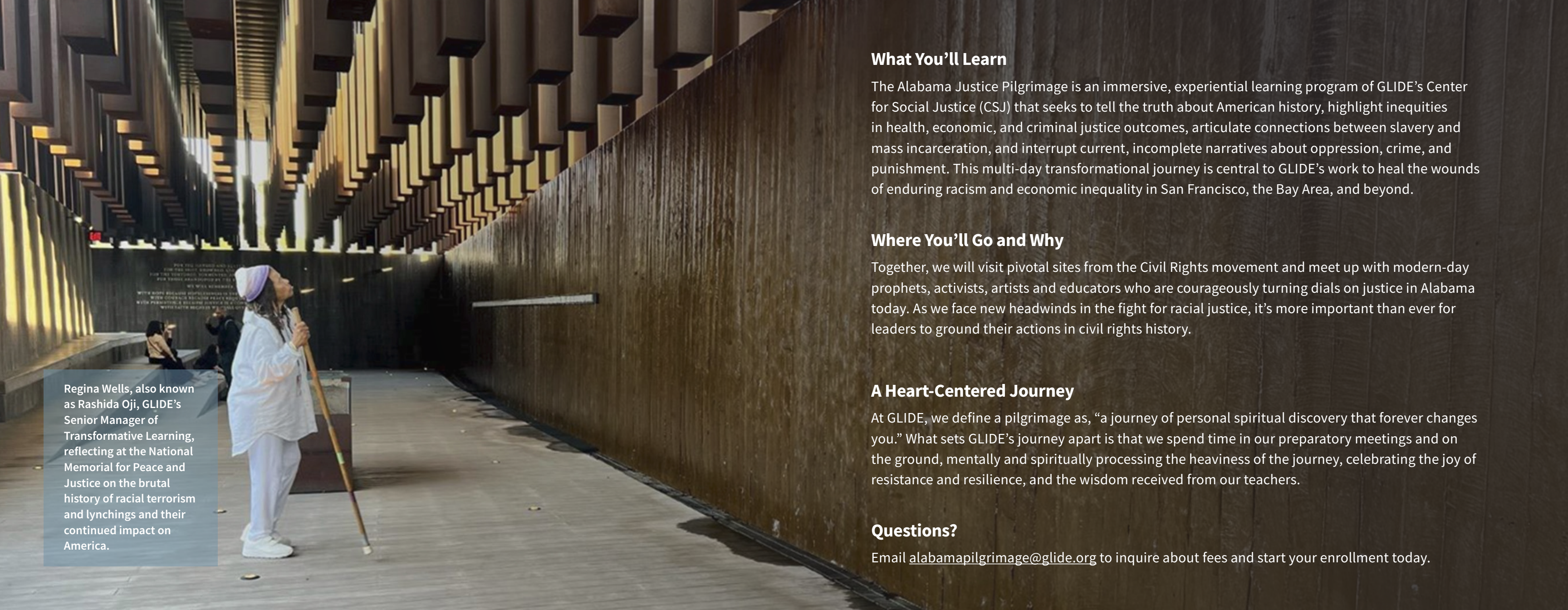


# Alabama Justice Pilgrimage

**Join GLIDE's heart-centered, immersive learning journey, coming face-to-face with the arc of our country's history of racism and fight for justice.**

**Visit memorials, museums, and sites of historic civil rights struggle. Meet the Alabama civil rights leaders who are shaping our movement today.**





Regina Wells, also known as Rashida Oji, GLIDE's Senior Manager of Transformative Learning, reflecting at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice on the brutal history of racial terrorism and lynchings and their continued impact on America.

## What You'll Learn

The Alabama Justice Pilgrimage is an immersive, experiential learning program of GLIDE's Center for Social Justice (CSJ) that seeks to tell the truth about American history, highlight inequities in health, economic, and criminal justice outcomes, articulate connections between slavery and mass incarceration, and interrupt current, incomplete narratives about oppression, crime, and punishment. This multi-day transformational journey is central to GLIDE's work to heal the wounds of enduring racism and economic inequality in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and beyond.

## Where You'll Go and Why

Together, we will visit pivotal sites from the Civil Rights movement and meet up with modern-day prophets, activists, artists and educators who are courageously turning dials on justice in Alabama today. As we face new headwinds in the fight for racial justice, it's more important than ever for leaders to ground their actions in civil rights history.

## A Heart-Centered Journey

At GLIDE, we define a pilgrimage as, "a journey of personal spiritual discovery that forever changes you." What sets GLIDE's journey apart is that we spend time in our preparatory meetings and on the ground, mentally and spiritually processing the heaviness of the journey, celebrating the joy of resistance and resilience, and the wisdom received from our teachers.

## Questions?

Email [alabamapilgrimage@glide.org](mailto:alabamapilgrimage@glide.org) to inquire about fees and start your enrollment today.





## Dr. Gina Fromer

*GLIDE President & CEO*

“This trip is important because of truth-telling. We’ve got to tell the truth about what happened. Black history is American history and should be told every day.”

Dr. Fromer’s words are vital to remember during a time when books are being banned and racial injustice is rising in our country. The brutal murder of George Floyd exposed the injustice of law enforcement in America. The Alabama Justice Pilgrimage gives us the fire and inspiration we need to lead the resistance when these same values are under threat.



## Mayor Steven L Reed, City of Montgomery, AL

*Elected as the first Black Mayor of Montgomery in 2019*

“What you are seeing here in Montgomery and in Alabama is a journey from pain to progress. For those of us who go back generations here in Alabama, we’ll never say “we can’t.” We’ll always figure out how to make it better going forward. And our work is not done!”



## UCSF Chancellor Sam Hawgood

*Researcher, professor, academic leader, and pediatrician at University of California San Francisco*

“It’s very easy as a leader to get trapped in the assumption that you’re doing everything you possibly can be doing, and that you’re doing as good a job as you can, and one of the many take-homes from this trip, is that’s not true. We have more work to do, and we have to be very visceral about it, as well as intentional. We have to speak to the heart as well as the mind.”



The Mothers of Gynecology Monument - Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey. They were enslaved women that were experimented upon without their consent.



UCSF Staff participating in a group discussion during a breakout session.



Mothers of Gynecology Founder Michelle Browder.



## Watch Pursuing Progress

This short documentary film about the Alabama Justice Pilgrimage will show you how it transformed the lives of GLIDE clients. Whether you're understanding the evil committed by your ancestors or your ancestor's heroic resistance to unimaginable cruelty, the truth has the power to liberate you! This film has a special spotlight on Jamien (JJ) Johnson and DeShawn Brown, two participants from GLIDE's Men in Progress Program. Connecting with the strength and resilience of their Black ancestors gave them hope and inspiration for their present-day lives.



Scan code or  
visit [glide.org/pursuing.progress](https://glide.org/pursuing.progress)



Deshaun Dupre Brown, Regina Wells, J.J. (Left to Right)



Jars of soil collected from lynching sites nationwide, an exhibit at The Legacy Museum.



Edmund Pettus Bridge -  
the site of Bloody Sunday  
and the starting point of  
Martin Luther King Jr.'s  
Selma to Montgomery March.





- “I am sure that none of you would want to rest content with the superficial kind of social analysis that deals merely with effects and does not grapple with underlying causes. It is unfortunate that demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham, but it is even more unfortunate that the city’s white power structure left the Negro community with no alternative.”

## Excerpts from a *Letter From Birmingham Jail*

Martin Luther King Jr’s famous words, penned on the 16th of April, 1963, inspire our pilgrimage today.

- “We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was ‘well timed’ in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word ‘Wait!’ It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This ‘Wait’ has almost always meant ‘Never.’ We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that ‘justice too long delayed is justice denied.’”
- “I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen’s Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to ‘order’ than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: ‘I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action.’”





## Sample Itinerary

This in-depth tour of civil rights history and present-day struggle will fill you with intense emotions every day and transform your perspective forever. We will retrace the steps of history, examine historical monuments, and visit museums that connect past with present. We will meet with purveyors of what Isoke Femi calls ‘Black Medicine’: mighty educators and activists and artists who pulse with a sense of righteousness, creativity, wonder, wisdom, and humor. These people will help anchor our journey and leave deep imprints on your soul.

**Pre-Learning Sessions:** A series of meetings to prepare for the trip and get to know your fellow pilgrims.

### Day 1

**Brown Chapel AME Church**  
**Selma**, the starting point of  
Selma Civil Rights Marches

### Day 2

**Walk across the historic**  
**Edmund Pettus Bridge**, Selma

### Day 3

**The Mothers of Gynecology**  
**Monument**, honoring Black  
women who were involuntarily  
used as research subjects to  
bolster their slavemaster’s  
scientific reputation

**Tuskegee University**, a top-  
ranked Historically Black  
University, known for cutting-  
edge research in medical ethics  
and inspiring and empowering  
generations of Black students.

### Day 4

**Equal Justice Initiative**  
**Museum**: 400 years of  
American history covering  
enslavement, racial terrorism,  
codified segregation, and mass  
incarceration.

### Day 5

**Selma Center for**  
**Nonviolence, Truth and**  
**Reconciliation**: promoting  
love, justice and Beloved  
Community

**Post-learning sessions:** A series of meetings to debrief the trip and metabolize the lessons in community.



Crossing in front of the  
Montgomery State  
Capitol building





**Rabbi Michael  
Lezak**

“The Alabama Justice Pilgrimage is, hands down, the most searingly powerful and transformational journey I’ve ever been on. The relationships we build with our prophetic partners on the ground, the wisdom and light they impart are soul-stirring and life-giving. To quote one of my formerly incarcerated Glide colleagues who joined the first pilgrimage, ‘every American needs to go on this trip’!

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### **Join Us On Our Next Pilgrimage!**

Contact [alabamapilgrimage@glide.org](mailto:alabamapilgrimage@glide.org) or visit [glide.org/glide-pilgrimage-to-alabama](https://glide.org/glide-pilgrimage-to-alabama) for more information.

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